

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A clip manipulating device comprising:

a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body and having a curved portion at a distal end portion;

a flexible wire having pliability and movable through the insertion tube;

a junction provided on a distal end portion of the wire, detachably coupled with a clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, ~~the junction is adapted to break when the wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip~~ and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a coupling member connected to the flexible wire, the coupling member has a deformable portion coupling with the other end of the looped flexible wire, the deformable portion being deformable to release the looped flexible wire ~~so that the junction is broken~~, and the looped flexible wire having a length between the clip and the deformable member such that when one end of the looped flexible wire engaged with the clip is

released from the distal end portion of the flexible insertion tube, the coupling member does not enter the curved portion of the flexible insertion tube.

24. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 23, which comprises a flexible tube sheath penetrated by the insertion tube for advance and retreat, the tube sheath being capable of storing the clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube.

25. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 24, wherein that part of the insertion tube which is situated behind the clip and exposed from the distal end of the tube sheath when the clip projects from the tube sheath forms a curvedly raised portion.

26. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 23, wherein the flexible insertion tube forms a push member for advancing the clip.

27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 36, wherein the coupling member is located apart from a distal end of the insertion tube in the insertion tube at least when the J-shaped portion is deformed.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device comprising:

a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body and having a curved portion at a distal end portion;

a flexible wire having pliability and movably passed through the insertion tube;  
a junction provided on a distal end portion of the wire, detachably coupled with a clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, the junction is adapted to break when the wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a joint connected to the flexible wire, the joint being coupled with the other end of the looped flexible wire, said one end of the looped flexible wire being able to be broken to release the clip, and the looped flexible wire having a length between the clip and the joint such that when one end of the looped flexible wire engaged with the clip is released from the distal end portion of the flexible insertion tube, the joint does not enter the curved portion of the flexible insertion tube.

30. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 29, which comprises a flexible tube sheath penetrated by the insertion tube for advance and retreat, the tube sheath being capable of storing the clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube.

31. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 30, wherein that part of the insertion tube which is situated behind the clip and exposed from a distal end of the tube sheath when the clip projects from the tube sheath forms a curvedly raised portion.

32. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 29, wherein the flexible insertion tube forms a push member for advancing the clip.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The clip manipulating device according to claim 29, wherein said distal end portion of the insertion tube is bent up to substantially 90 degrees by a forceps raising device.

35. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device comprising:

a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body and having a curved portion at a distal end portion;

a single flexible wire having pliability and movably passed through the insertion tube;

a junction provided on a distal end portion of the flexible wire, detachably coupled with a single clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, the junction is adapted to break when the flexible wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a joint connected to the flexible wire, the joint being coupled with the other end of the looped flexible wire, said one end of the looped

flexible wire being able to be broken to release the clip, and the looped flexible wire having a length between the clip and the joint such that when one end of the looped flexible wire engaged with the clip is released from the distal end portion of the flexible insertion tube, the joint does not enter the curved portion of the flexible insertion tube.

36. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device according to claim 23, wherein the deformable portion includes a J-shaped portion.

37. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device comprising:

- a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body;

- a flexible wire having pliability and movable through the insertion tube;

- a junction provided on a distal end portion of the wire, detachably coupled with a clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, the junction is adapted to break when the wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a coupling member connected to the flexible wire, the coupling member has a deformable portion coupling with the other end of the looped flexible wire, the deformable portion being deformable to release the looped flexible wire so that the junction is broken, and the deformable portion has a greater rigidity than the looped flexible wire.

38. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device comprising:

a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body;

a flexible wire having pliability and movably passed through the insertion tube;

a junction provided on a distal end portion of the wire, detachably coupled with a clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, the junction is adapted to break when the wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a joint connected to the flexible wire, the joint being coupled with the other end of the looped flexible wire, said one end of the looped flexible wire being able to be broken to release the clip, and the joint has a greater rigidity than the looped flexible wire.

39. (Previously Presented) A clip manipulating device comprising:

a flexible insertion tube capable of being inserted into a cavity of a living body;

a single flexible wire having pliability and movably passed through the insertion tube;

a junction provided on a distal end portion of the flexible wire, detachably coupled with a single clip located at the distal end portion of the insertion tube for effecting grasping operation and disengaging operation of the clip,

wherein the junction is pliable enough to follow substantial bending deformation of the insertion tube, such that movement in the tube is not hindered by the bending deformation, the junction is adapted to break when the flexible wire is hauled with a tractive effort great enough to leave the clip and the junction includes a looped flexible wire of a predetermined length, one end of which is coupled with the clip and a joint connected to the flexible wire, the joint being coupled with the other end of the looped flexible wire, said one end of the looped flexible wire being able to be broken to release the clip, and the joint has a greater rigidity than the looped flexible wire.